jured and who have cot been paid eompensation so far;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) According to available information, a total of 220 Indian pas. sengers were travelling by this flight. Out $_0$f these, 13 were killed and 76 were injured.

The matter regarding -payment of compensation is between the Airline and* the passengers/next of kin.

Import of Digital switching system

606. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ^proposal under. ihe consideration of Government to import digital switching systems for handling telecommunication traffic in major districts in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details, thereof; and

<c) by when the proposed system is^ likely to be installed and to what extent jthe consumers will be benefited?

THE I&NISTER OF STATE IN TflE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRl SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal t_0 import digital trunk switches for the eight cities of , Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune.

(e) The. proposed system are likely to be. installed' by the year J990 progressively. With the introduction of these systems the consumer! will be benefited as follows'

(i) Trunk calls will be tried strictly in order of priority and booking time.

(ii) Handling of trunk calls will be speeded up.

(Hi) It will be possible to readily find out the status of trunk call and' answer any enquiries about the call quickly.

(iv) Valuation of trunk call tickets for billing purposes will be speeded up.

Air-taxi Services

607. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air taxi scheme which was approved by Government during last year has not worked properly; and

7b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The response to the Air Taxi Service Scheme has not been encouraging. Government is contemplating modification of the scheme to make it more attractive.

Demurrage charged at Ports

608. SHRI BIR BHADRA FRA-TAP SINGH: SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to tate what is the amount of demurrage "charped at each of the major ports in the country during the last three years?